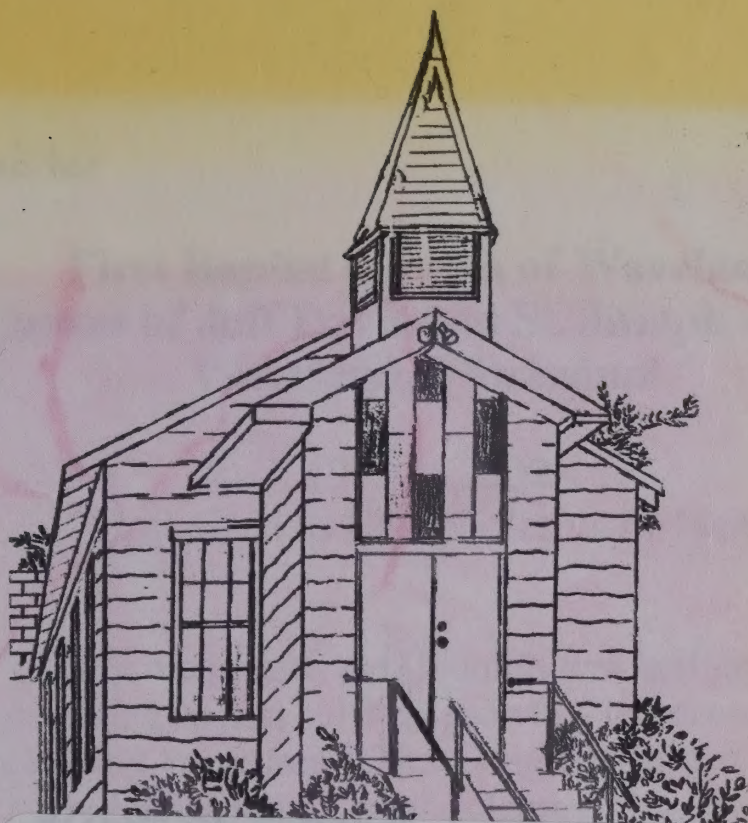


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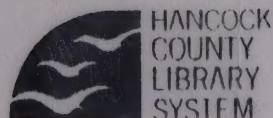
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First Baptist Church of Waveland
Corner of Jeff Davis and St. Joseph streets
Waveland, Mississippi

1952 to 2002
Organized to Church Status in 1960

by
Dan Ellis

MR
286
.7621
ELLI



312 Highway 90
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

MR
286
.7621
ELLI

Dedicated to:

**First Baptist Church of Waveland
Corner of Jeff Davis and St. Joseph streets
Waveland, Mississippi**

1952 to 2002

Organized to Church Status in 1960

This recording of history recognizes the Church's first half-century as a Baptist Faith Community. By revealing its past spiritual growth – its second half-century is further challenged by continuing successes. The Congregants and the church leaders are blessed with the duties for assuring a great outcome.

"In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you; and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

"And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stones-quarers; so they prepared timber and stones to build the house."

"And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings . . . for the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceeding magnificence."

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The Precursors

A Brief History Hancock County White Baptist Churches

In February 1846, the first recorded sermon was preached by Elder Benjamin Whitfield at Bay St. Louis. His work was followed in 1848, by Elder P.P. Bowan who continued serving the Lord until 1855.

In 1858, a church named *Elim* was administered by Elder W.H. Varnado until 1860. The Congregants numbered 14, including Blacks and whites. Following the Civil War, in 1866 the church was restarted for a short 3 month period by Elder W.W. Stovall. With the passing of a decade, in 1875 Elder R.R. Breland baptized two persons, but stayed for only a few months. These short seasons were followed by yet another, when Elder W.A. Mason baptized the four children of the Church Deacon, W.A. Whitfield.

After numerous false starts, the first permanent Baptist Church in Bay St. Louis was built in 1896, and was located on Easterbrook Street adjoining its Cemetery. It was built of wood and administered by Rev. W.S. Allen – having reached a membership of 102 by the late 1930s.

Pastor Allen also provided his time in 1907, to build a church in the Kiln – increasing its membership to 65 by the late 1930s. It was situated on the site of a former lumber mill where the congregation moved an old wooden church that was previously located a few miles distant in the piney woods.

The First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis received Rev. J.T. Dearing as its first full time pastor in 1945 with the deeding of its present site on Main Street by Dr. T.B. Sellers. The new church was celebrated on November 7, 1947. After fire damages in 1977, the church was restored in April 1978.

Other early Baptist churches were located at Leetown, Logtown, Flat Top, Johnson, Santa Rosa, and Gainesville – all which are towns that no longer exist.

Waveland

A new Faith Community begins

During the first months of 1949, Rev. O.B. Anderson led a Christian revival that was held at the Waveland Public Schoolhouse. This stirred the spiritual enthusiasm of twelve devoted Waveland individuals who continued prayer meetings in their homes. This impetus was further encouraged by Pastor W.S. Allen of Bay St. Louis, who helped make the vision a reality in 1952. A tent revival was held upon the triangular lot at Jeff Davis and St. Joseph streets.

A Home is Born

Through the leadership of Rev. Bob McNamee and the inspiring words of Rev. Schuyler Batson of First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis, the Revival resulted in the organization of a Mission and the acquisition of the lot where the tent was pitched.

With the financial assistance of the Gulf Coast Baptist Association, the lot was purchased for \$2,200 and soon afterward, a World War II Army barracks was purchased for \$125 and moved to the site where it became the Waveland Baptist Chapel.



A Chapel in the Woods – 1952



Rev. Bob McNamee assembles a growing flock of dedicated faithful.



Realizing the need for Spiritual training and a place for fellowship gatherings, the growing congregation set upon the task and challenge to erect an Educational Building.

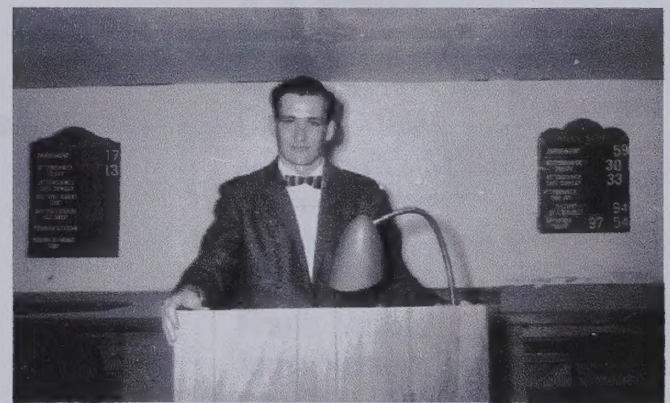
Groundbreaking ceremonies for this project took place in 1953. Some of the noted celebrants were:

Rev. Schuyler Batson, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis, Rev. O.B. Anderson, Director of the Gulf Coast Baptist Association, and Brother W.B. Bozeman.

A Salutation from Rev. Adrian P. Rogers, Pastor, 1954 – 1958

*Dear Friends of the
Waveland Baptist Chapel,
For more than three years, I've
served as your pastor here in
Waveland. During this time we
have shared many wonderful
experiences together.
We have prayed and worked—wept
and laughed. In these years, many
of you have found Christ as Savior
and others have been led to a
closer walk with Him.*

February 19, 1958



Rev. Adrian Rogers



1958 – Waveland Baptist Chapel

During the formative years of spiritual growth, the Waveland congregation expanded through the guidance of its leaders and compelling devotion of its increasing membership.

Waveland Baptist Chapel

Enrollment of the Faithful

(circa) 1958

Nick Antunica
Mrs Nick Antunica
Dorothy Antunica
Cathy Antunica
Mrs Helen Arnold
Susan Mae Arnold
Mrs Bates
Terry Bennett
Dorothy Bennett
Charles Bernard
Mrs Charles Bernard
Deloris Bernard Farve
Milton Bernard
Alvin Bernard
Zack Blackwell
Mrs Zack Blackwell
Mrs Chester Bourgeois
Mrs Myrtle Bourgeois
Mrs Alphonse Farve
Mrs R.J. Bourgeois
Mrs Theresa Bourgeois
Richard Bourgeois
W.M. Bozeman
Mrs Jessie Breland
Mrs K.T. Breland
Donald Breland
Mrs O.A. Brown
Gwen Brown
Barbara Ann Brune
Keith Bunner
Jimmy Cummings
Alex Cospolich
Mrs Alex Cospolich
Lottie Carver

Cynthia Carver
Janell Carver
Mrs J.E. Daly
Carolyn Damiens
Mrs Walter Damiens
Mrs Herbert Eaton, Jr.
Michael Ellington
Jo Ann Farve
Rhonda Flemming
Clyde Frickie
Allen Graham
Andre Graham
G.W. Graham
George Garcia
Mary Leigh Garcia
Mrs Ray Gates
John Green
Mrs John Green
Charles Hammer
O.G. Hankins
Dave Harville
James Harville
Mrs James Harville
Mrs Ellis Harville
Cecil Hedrick
Mrs Cecil Hedrick
Cecil Hedrick, Jr.
Pete Hedrick
Emile Henley
Paul Henley
Mrs Paul Henley
Paul Henley, Jr.
Rodney Henley
Butch Henley

Rev. Jack Huguen
Mrs Jane Huguen
Louis Kennedy
Jerry Kennedy
Mrs Tommy Kingston
Gregory Kottmann
Mrs Lucich
Mrs Edna LaRoca
Billy Mackey
Gary Mackey
Larry Mackey
A.A. Mathes
Mrs A.A. Mathes
Mrs Margaret Miller
Charles Miller
Mrs Charles Miller
Stormy Miller
Mrs Myrtis Necaie
Nelson Necaie
Frank Necaie
Jerry Necaie
Mrs Jack Penalvier
Mrs Luminel Perdue
Mrs Beatrice Raines
Ruth Ann Raines
Carola Raines
Mrs Helen Ruhr
Ed Ruhr, Sr.
Ed Ruhr, Jr.
John Smith
Kathleen Smith
Mrs Farver Tucker
Mrs Margaret Warren
Alice Wheeler

A Spiritual Landmark

In August 1960, the Mission attained church status with the celebration and passage of the following Resolution.

Whereas, it appears to us that there is a real need for a Baptist church in this locality, and after much prayer and seeking of divine guidance, and much consultation with our neighboring brethren and churches, and after five years of successful operation as a mission, under the sponsorship of the First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis and the Gulf Coast Baptist Association, and after the calling of a council to consider the matter, it is resolved that we, the present members of Waveland Baptist Chapel, do now enter upon the organization of a church under the direction of the council composed of the pastors and members representing churches in the Gulf Coast Baptist Association.

The conversion celebration was held under the auspices of Rev. O.B. Anderson, Superintendent of Associate Missions for Gulf Coast Mississippi and Rev. Dr. Franklin Atkinson, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Bay St. Louis on October 16, 1960.

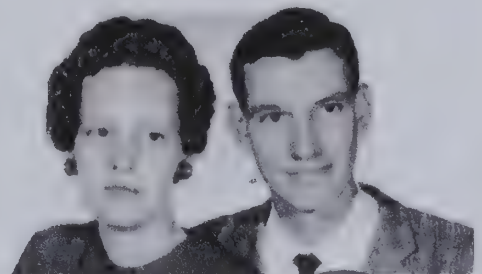


Rev. Jack C. Huguen

First Baptist Church of Waveland Celebrates 10th Anniversary as a Faith Community August 16, 1962

Rev. Schuyler Batson, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Biloxi, while at Bay St. Louis, was very attentive to the early beginnings of the Waveland Mission. Rev. Batson returned to be guest preacher in commemorating its historical development.

An 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast started the day – with regular services commencing at 11:00 a.m. – and a Homecoming Reception held at 3:00 p.m. – and finally, the day was capped-off with services at 7:30 p.m. Speakers honored the day as a 10th Anniversary for the Faith Community and a 2nd Anniversary since achieving Church status.



Rev. and Mrs. Jack R. Smith

1962 Church Volunteers

Sunday School

J.D. Green – Superintendent
Mrs W.B. Olson – Asso. Supt. and Sec.
Mrs Edward Clayburn – Adult Ladies Teacher
Mrs J.D. Green – Asso. Ladies Teacher
Mrs Mack Brown – Young People Girls
W. Damiens – Young People Boys
Mrs J.D. Green – Jr Dept Supt
Mrs Edsel Gibbons – Jr Girls Teacher

Edsel Gibbons – Jr Boys Teacher
Mrs Robert Epperson – Primary Dept Supt
Mrs Joseph Daly – Primary Teacher
Mrs Frank Necaie – Beginner Dept Supt
Mrs Elsie Painten – Beginner Teacher
Mrs Jack Smith – Nursery Coordinator
Mary Lee Garcia – 2-3 year Supt
Mrs H. Crow – Babies and Toddlers

Training Union

L.E. Gibbons – Director
George Garcia – Asso Director
Miss Mary Lee Garcia – Secretary
Mrs Jack Smith – Young People

Mrs Robert Epperson – Junior Leader
Mrs Joseph Daly – Primary Leader
Mrs W. Damiens – Beginner Leader
Mrs Larry Lee – Nursery Leader

Committees

Finance

Grey Wade
Paul Henley, Treasurer
Edsel Gibbons
Frank Necaie
Robert Epperson

Clerk

Avis Gibbons

Building

Grey Wade
George Garcia
J.D. Green
Richard Bourgeois
L.J. Cook
Ed Ruhr, Jr

Grounds

Harold Barnes
Jimmy Shanahan
Carl Shanahan
George Garcia, Jr.

Nursery

Mrs W.B. Olson
Mrs Larary Lee
Mrs Henry Crow

Kitchen

Mrs L.J. Cook
Mrs Robert Epperson
Mrs Edward Clayburn
Mrs Joseph Daly

Flowers

Mrs Jesse Breland
Mrs Jack Smith

Baptism

Mrs Robert Epperson
Mrs Frank Necaie
John Sellers

Music

Walter Damiens
Mrs Ruth Ketchum

Lord's Supper

Mrs Frank Necaie

Ushers

Jesse Breland
Harold Barnes

Hostesses

Mrs Paul Henley
Mrs J.D. Green



An Anniversary Cake with plenty of desserts were prepared.

Bible School Attendance Increase

May 25 to June 5, 1962 recorded an enrollment of 104, having an average daily attendance of 83. Rev. Jack Smith, Principal and Mrs Bill Olson, Assistant Principal.



1964 – Girls' Auxiliary

To honor of the Girls' Auxiliary of First Baptist Church of Waveland, Congregants gathered as awards were presented by Mrs Edsel Gibbons and Mrs Bill Olson.

1963 Building Resolution

Another Milestone

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees and select committees was called by Robert Epperson, Trustee Chairman. After thorough discussions, a resolution was passed on October 18, 1963, to request a loan from the Baptist Home Mission Board for the base amount of \$10,000. An additional \$5,000 was requested as a line of credit to draw upon for unscheduled expenses over the cost of moving the building located at Santa Rosa, providing for renovations, and completing an acquisition of the adjoining lot measuring 64' by 244' which would be used for a pastorium.

Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa once marked the Mississippi part of Honey Island Swamp, which prevails as a wildlife refuge and which for many years was the safe harborage for pirate bands that were as powerful and notorious as the Lafites of Louisiana. The most ruthless was Pierre Rameau, King of Honey Island Swamp.

The Santa Rosa Church

Olyn Sims provided the leadership to organize the Santa Rosa community as a Mission on November 7, 1947. However, the Church was forced to disband in 1963, when it was absorbed into the NASA Stennis Test Site facility buffer zone. The Federal government awarded the church \$42,500 for its property, which resulted in the building being donated to the Waveland Baptist Church. In 1964, the vacant Santa Rosa church building was moved to the Waveland Baptist Church site at Jeff Davis Street where it remains today.

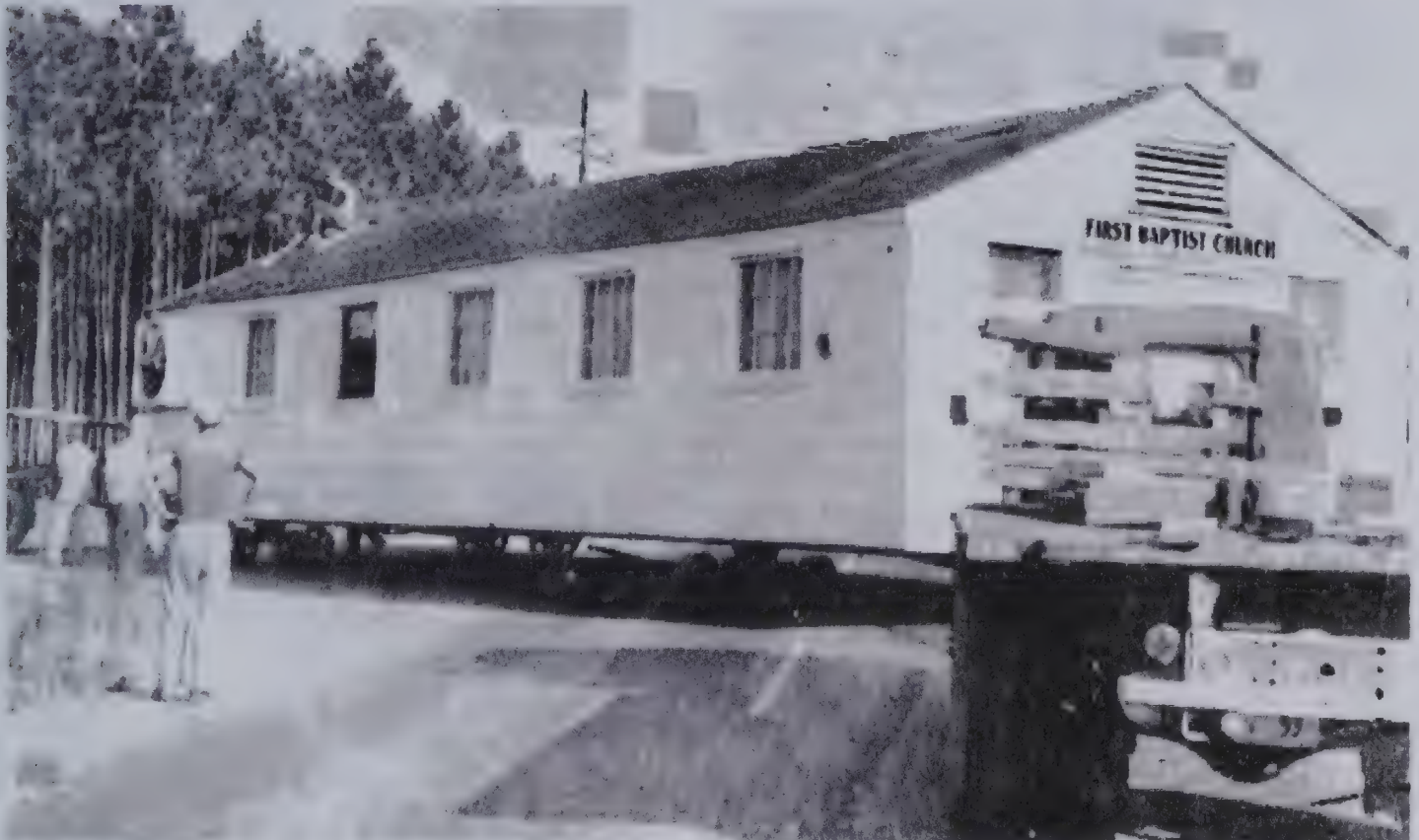
In anticipation of the new church and pastorium, the skies opened and placed a white blanket upon the earth.



January 1964

Sponsoring a Mission

In 1964, the Waveland Baptist Church sponsored a Mission, the Shoreline Baptist Chapel. The older building that housed the Waveland since the mid-50s. was prepared for delivery to the sister community at Lakeshore.

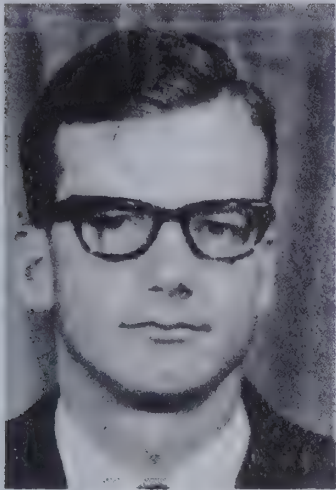


The First Baptist Church on the move as the older edifice was shored up and stored on a truck bed in taking its trip to its new Mission home at Lakeshore.

The newer Santa Rosa facility provided twice the seating capacity to Waveland celebrants.

The first sermon at Lakeshore was given by Waveland's Pastor Jack Smith on June 24, 1964, where many Waveland and Bay St. Louis well-wishers attended. Five years later, Hurricane Camille completely ravished the building.

In 1968, church records revealed a membership of 219, with property valuation of \$75,000, including a pastor's home.



Rev. Joe Davis

In 1971, a new baptistry was installed under the leadership of Rev. Wylie Heath.



Rev. Wylie Heath

In November 1979, during Rev. Lee Burns' pastorate, Waveland First Baptist Church was recognized as one of the "top ten" churches in "per-capita giving" by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



***Ben Ferrell, Walter Damiens,
Rev. Lee Burns, and Edsel Gibbons***



Rev. Lee Burns

First Baptist Church
July 22, 1981

Dear Mrs. Gibbons and Gail:

We so often fall in the subtle trap of taking good things for granted. I want to tell you both that I sincerely appreciate the quantity and quality of the labor you bestow in behalf of the church and Christ's Kingdom.

Brother John

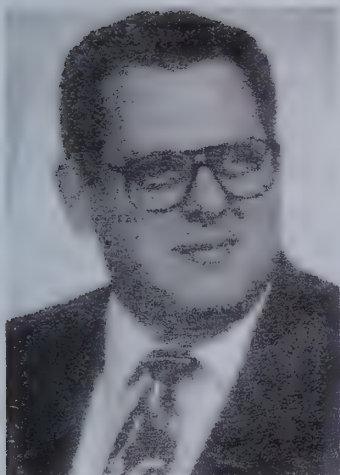
Waveland Pastors

1952	Bob McNamee
1954	Adrian P. Rogers
1960	Jack C. Huguen
1962	Jack R. Smith
1965	J. Wilbur Hall
1968	Joe Hasson
1970	Joe Davis
1971	Wylie Heath
1977	Lee Burns
1981	Bro. John
1988	Ray Williams
1993	Jodie H. Cothen
1997	Talmadge Rayborn
1999	Mark Vandiver
2000	Charles S. Corey, Jr.



During the pastorate of Rev. Ray Williams, in 1988, church attendance increased greatly as a result of such innovative activities as conducting a city-wide canvas and arranging an open-air back-yard Bible Study.

The Church celebrated its 36th year Anniversary as a Baptist Faith Community.



Rev. Jodie H. Cothen



*1995 Ramp Dedication by
Rev. J.H. Cothen*

Good Samaritan

In 1997, vandalism on the church sign was rewarded with the appearance of a Good Samaritan. Upon his passing the church and having noticed that the sign bearing the scriptures *Jesus Loves You* was badly damaged, he knocked on the church door and left a significant offering to replace the vandalized sign.



Rev. Talmadge Rayborn



Rev. Mark Vandiver



Waveland's Passage to Heaven



2001 – Worship and Fellowship on Valentine's Day



*50 years of Spiritual giving is represented by the
Congregants of the First Baptist Church of Waveland
1952 – 2002*

**Mission Status in 1952
Organized Church Status in 1960**

**First Baptist Church of Waveland
100 Jeff Davis corner of St. Joseph**

2001 Staff and Officers

Pastor	Rev. Charles Corey, Jr.
Music Leader	Eli Madrigal
Deacon Chairman	Bill Olson
Deacon	Eli Madrigal
Sunday School Director	Myrtle Olson
Church Clerk	Gale Pennington
Church Treasurer	Avis Gibbons

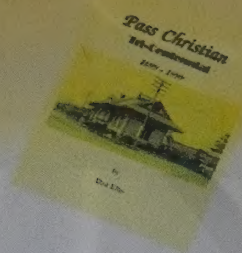
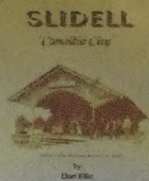
*These are the leaders that have been chosen for
their spiritual strength and are charged with carrying
the cross into the first year of a new half-century in
performing the Lord's work.*

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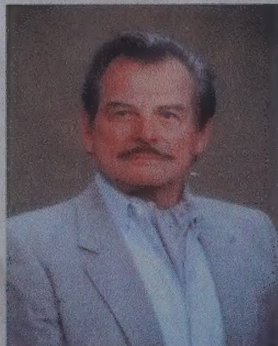
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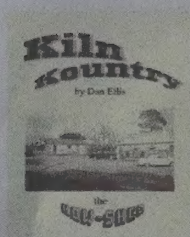
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HISTORY BOOKS



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